

[REDACTED]

MOBUTU Sese Seko
(Phonetic: moBOOtoo)

ZAIRE

President (since November
1965)

Addressed as:
Mr. President

Mobutu Sese Seko, a Belgian-trained noncommissioned officer who seized power in a bloodless coup, has succeeded in uniting a nation that had been split by violence and rebellion since independence in 1960.

Now a lieutenant general, Mobutu serves concurrently as President of the Republic, president-founder of the Popular Movement of the Revolution (Zaire's only political party), State Commissioner (minister) for Defense and Veterans Affairs, and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. [REDACTED]



(b) (1)
(b) (3)
(b) (6)

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Mobutu has so far been able to overcome adversity and land on his feet. Over the past four years, however, his popularity has slipped in the face of Zaire's increasing economic problems and his limited effort to solve them. In order to qualify for continued funding

[REDACTED]

(cont.)
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[redacted]

from the International Monetary Fund, Mobutu has had to acquiesce to IMF demands for financial reform. In 1980 he assembled a competent team of economic technicians and managers, and he has supported several team recommendations to change government fiscal procedures. Only under considerable pressure from the IMF and from US and other Western officials, however, has Mobutu moved to correct some of Zaire's most serious shortcomings in the area of economic accountability.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] He reads several newspapers and journals regularly and is well informed on domestic and foreign issues. He is a good public speaker and likes appearing before a crowd. He speaks French and Lingala. Mobutu, 51,

[redacted] He has been married twice and has nine children. [redacted]